

EXTRACTION OF ALKALOIDS OF CATHARANTHUS ROSEUS TISSUE

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Inventors: GOODBODY ANN (CA); MISAWA MASANARU (CA); WATSON COLIN D (CA)

Assignee: ALLELIX INC CA Assignee Code: 14196 (REASSIGNED - See file 123 for details)

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Abstract:

Alkaloids present in Catharanthus roseus tissue are selectively concentrated by aqueous extraction of ground tissue followed by extraction with organic solvent e.g. ethyl acetate. The resultant concentrate is rich in catharanthine, vindoline and 3',4'-anhydrovinblastine (AVLB). Yield of AVLB is enhanced by addition to the aqueous extraction medium of acid, salt, or hydrogen peroxide and can be further enhanced through the addition of sodium borohydride.

Exemplary Claim:

1. A PROCESS FOR EXTRACTING AN ALKALOID FROM THE SOLUBLE COMPONENT OF AN ACIDIC, AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF C. ROSEUS TISSUE WHICH COMPRISES TREATING SAID SOLUBLE COMPONENT WITH A REDUCING AGENT AND EXTRACTING THE TREATED SOLUBLE COMPONENT WITH AN ORGANIC SOLVENT.
2. THE PROCESS ACCORDING TO CLAIM 1 WHEREIN THE REDUCING AGENT IS SODIUM BOROHYDRIDE.
3. THE PROCESS ACCORDING TO CLAIM 2 WHEREIN THE ORGANIC SOLVENT IS ETHYL ACETATE.